
God Explains Marriage – Ephesians 5:22-33 (Part 11)

²² Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. ²⁴ Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so *let* the wives *be* to their own husbands in everything.

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, ²⁶ that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, ²⁷ that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

²⁸ So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord *does* the church. ³⁰ For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. ³¹ "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." ³² This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

³³ Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife *see* that she respects *her* husband.

A Husband Is to Love His Wife (25)

- Continually, sacrificially be loving your wife as Christ loved the church
- We're Commanded to Love Multiple Times: Enemies/One Another/Wives
- 3 "Befores" of Love: Right Order (Lu 14:26), Purpose (1 Cor 13:1-3), & Target (1 John 2:15)

HOW a Husband Is to Love His Wife (25) (How Did Christ Love the Church?)

1. I am to love my wife at the expense of my own comfort & convenience, & my life
2. I am to love my wife with a focus on what she needs (may not = what she / church wants)
Leadership – Instruction – Sanctification – Protection – Provision – Mercy & Grace
3. With an attitude of humility (Phil 2:1-8) – Count her as worth living for, and worth dying for
4. With loving behavior (1 Cor 13:4-7) – What love looks like and sounds like

WHY a Husband Is to Love His Wife (26)

1. The Purpose – Sanctification (Positional vs. Practical)
2. The Process – Cleansing (2 Cor 7:1; James 4:8)
3. The Procedure – Washing of Water (Ps 119:9; Heb 10:22; John 15:3; 17:17; 1 John 1:6-10)
4. The Prompting – In a Word (Titus 2:11-14; Deut 6:6-7; 2 Cor 3:18)
It is the active application of the Word in life's circumstances
Men – Are you speaking to your wife the sanctifying Word in the circumstances of life?
Women – Do you look to your husband to highlight the circumstances of life by the Word?

The GOAL of a Husband's Love for His Wife (27)

- God's goal (and each husband's goal) is to purify & sanctify presently, continually, progressively, and fully.
- **Believers:** Are you obediently participating with God in pursuing His goal for you?
- **Husbands:** Are you obediently participating with God in pursuing His goal for you and your wife?

Love Your Wife Like Your Own Body (28-29)

1. The Indebted Action to Your Wife – "so husbands ought to love wives as their own bodies"
2. The Logical Reason to Love Your Wife – "he who loves his wife loves himself"
3. The Truthful Reality of How We Care for Our Own Bodies – "nourishes and cherishes it"
4. The Spiritual Example of Such Care – "us as the Lord does the church"

Marriage, and the Mystery of Christ and the Church (Eph 5:29b-32)

²⁹ For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord *does* the church. ³⁰ For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. ³¹ "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." ³² This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

1. The Care of Christ for the Church

^{29b} "just as the Lord does the church"

- **Nourish:** And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord. (Eph 6:4)
- **Cherish:** But we were gentle among you, just as a nursing mother cherishes her own children. (1 Thes 2:7)

2. The Connection of Christ to the Church

³⁰ For (ὄντι) we are members (1), of His body, ~~of His flesh and of His bones.~~

- For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, ⁵ so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. (Rom 12:4-5)
- ¹² For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also [is] Christ. ¹³ For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body-- whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free-- and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. ¹⁴ For in fact the body is not one member but many. ... ¹⁸ But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased. ¹⁹ And if they were all one member, where [would] the body [be]? ²⁰ But now indeed [there are] many members, yet one body. ²¹ And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." ²² No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary. ... ²⁶ And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with [it]; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with [it]. ²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually. (1 Cor 12:12-27)
- Therefore, putting away lying, "Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor," for we are members of one another. (Eph 4:25)

3. The Creation of Marriage in Genesis

³¹ "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh."

The human marriage relationship pictures the spiritual relationship.

A man & a woman are united to be inseparable as Christ & the church.

4. The Commonness Between the Two

³² This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

- the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints. (Col 1:26)